

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 1285

(Delegate Ramirez, *et al.*)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

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Task Force to Study Youth Gang Activities

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This bill creates a Task Force to Study Youth Gang Activities with specified responsibilities. The Secretary of Juvenile Services and the State's Attorney for Prince George's County are designated as co-chairs of the task force. Staffing will be provided by the Office of the State's Attorney for Prince George's County. The task force is required to submit an interim report by December 1, 2004 to the House Judiciary Committee, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, and the General Assembly. The final report is due by December 1, 2005.

The bill is effective July 1, 2004.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for State task force members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for local task force members and staffing costs for Prince George's County State's Attorney are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** There are no current provisions in Maryland directly addressing "criminal group enterprises."

**Background:** Gang activities are on the rise in Maryland. Some law enforcement-based research shows that there are approximately 3,600 gang members in Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia and that there are nine major gangs active in the area and over 100 additional crews and cliques nationwide. In Prince George's County alone, the police department reports that the county has 30 to 40 gangs, involving 300 to 400 young people, which are often involved in violent crime such as murder, carjacking, robbery, and assault with weapons.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 2, 2004  
ncs/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 26, 2004

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